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August 10, and that the Duke of Orleans became Philippe Égalité in the summer of 1793.

*Wellington's Army, 1809-1814.* By C. W. C. OMAN, M.A., LL.D., Chichele Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford. (New York: Longmans, Green, and Company; London: Edward Arnold. 1912. Pp. viii, 395.)

To evolve out of an incident as commonplace as the taking of a woman's hair a poem like Pope's "Rape of the Lock" is an achievement possible to a genius only and, similarly, none but a master-writer like Dr. Oman could have clothed in such charming guise the many bald facts and dry statistics contained in his latest work on Wellington's army. The general reader as well as the military student will find this book of unusual interest. Not even Napier gives a better picture of the motley English force that for six years held head against, and eventually expelled from the Peninsula, the Napoleonic legions so long irresistible in Europe.

Dr. Oman's first two chapters deal with the literature of the Peninsular War, classifying the books and assigning to each the value it deserves as historical reference. He very aptly lays down the rule that narratives written after the events described must be scrutinized with care before their evidence be accepted as trustworthy and that one "must begin by trying to obtain a judgment on the 'personal equation'—was the author a hard-headed observer, or a lover of romantic anecdotes?" (p. 26).

Chapter III. treats of the Duke of Wellington—the man and the strategist. Capable the "Iron Duke" unquestionably was, but utterly devoid of sympathy for others, unloving and unloved, "a hard master, slow to praise and swift to blame and to punish" (p. 42). "Anything that seemed to Wellington to partake of the nature of thinking for oneself was an unpardonable sin in a subordinate." Habitually ignoring to mention in his official despatches the names of any save the senior officers present—unless some subordinate had committed a mistake, in which case the error was invariably chronicled—he was constantly currying favor with the aristocracy; in a word the duke was a thorough snob (p. 48). On the other hand, his genius was truly prophetic—as illustrated by his memoranda of September 5 and October 26, 1809—his powers of calculation careful and long-sighted, his insight into the enemy's probable move extraordinary, and frequently, as at Salamanca, his mastery of the offensive both unexpected and remarkable (pp. 53-60).

Chapter IV. deals with Wellington's infantry tactics, especially the line versus the column, and contains material of extraordinary interest to the military student. The reasons for the efficiency of the French column or mixed formation are admirably set forth (pp. 61-73) as well as their influence on British tactics (pp. 74-75) following on the lessons of the American Revolution (pp. 75-77). The problem of how

best to meet the French formations had long been interesting to Wellington who, before he left Calcutta in 1805, announced that "he was convinced that the column would, and could, be beaten by the line" (p. 78), and Professor Oman goes on to show the system by which he established the soundness of his contention in many a hard-fought fight (pp. 79-93).

Then follows a chapter devoted to the tactics of the British cavalry and artillery as well as the French. In these two arms Wellington's inferiority was very marked. That he did not entertain a high regard for his own horsemen is evidenced by his letter to Lord John Russell twelve years after the war was ended:

I considered our cavalry so inferior to the French from want of order, that although I considered one of our squadrons a match for two French, yet I did not care to see four British opposed to four French, and still more so as the numbers increased, and order (of course) became more necessary. They could gallop, but could not preserve their order (p. 104).

With the hand of a master Dr. Oman depicts in chapter VI. three of Wellington's lieutenants, in word-portraits instinct with life and personality, which must be read to be fully appreciated. The first is Sir Rowland Hill, the Duke's trusted and most responsible lieutenant, a man of "beautiful combination of intelligence and executive power", unsurpassed in "fierce driving energy" by any officer in the British or French armies, "capable of the highest feats in war, who might have gone far, if he had been given the chance of a completely independent command" (pp. 115-118). Next is William Carr Beresford, well "pushed" by family influence, unpopular but loyal and obedient to his chief, who organized an almost hopelessly demoralized force of Portuguese into a very fair fighting body (pp. 119-122). Last is Thomas Graham of Balgowan, later created Lord Lynedoch, "in one way the most typical figure of the epoch", picturesque, quick of eye, sudden of resolution, a splendid leader in times of crisis, of whom no unkind word was ever uttered by one of his subordinates, a man *sans peur et sans reproche* (pp. 122-128).

Of other lieutenants chapter VII. treats, beginning with Sir Thomas Picton, a typical eighteenth-century soldier, a Welshman with the manners of the barrack-room which wholly belied his gentle birth. "A rough, foul-mouthed devil as ever lived" was Wellington's estimate, and yet a fine soldier, cool of resolution, unlimited in self-confidence, and with the courage of ten bulldogs, whose Spartan courage the last three days of his life so splendidly attested.

Of a different stamp was Robert Craufurd, one of the few scientific soldiers in the army, "undoubtedly the most brilliant lieutenant that Wellington ever owned", as Busaco fully demonstrated, but one who was too prone to think for himself and whose reputation has suffered by reason of the animosity of the Napiers (pp. 139-150). Dr. Oman

very properly refutes Napier's slip of memory in ascribing to his Light Division a march of sixty-two miles to Talavera in twenty-six hours—a physical impossibility. The actual distance covered was forty-three miles (p. 141) which was three miles less than Friant's division made in the twenty-four hours following its departure from Leopoldsdorf to join Napoleon for the battle of Austerlitz where it performed such prodigies.

Cole, Leith, Spencer, Slade, and Erskine occupy less than three pages—probably all they deserve—and Professor Oman rightly emphasizes the fact that “Wellington never trained a general who proved himself a first-rate exponent of the art of war” (p. 151), doubtless for the extremely good reason that the duke was not one himself and furthermore could brook no possible rival in his own army.

The six succeeding chapters are devoted to the organization of the British army in Spain and to its auxiliaries, the Germans and Portuguese, into the details of which it would be superfluous to enter here. Of the staff corps, one in particular deserves every encomium. “The much-cursed and criticized Commissariat succeeded in doing its duty, and the length of time for which the British army could keep concentrated was the envy of the French, who, living on the country, were forced to disperse whenever they had exhausted the resources of the particular region in which they were massed.” If, as Yorck von Wartenburg has asserted, “It is indeed a characteristic, uniformly noticeable in the strategy of all the greatest generals, that they knew how to utilize their cavalry to the best advantage”, Wellington cannot be included in this category since he “never used his cavalry in mass for any great separate manoeuvre” (p. 176).

Although “professional training for officers had perforce been non-existent in the early years of the French war”, no less an authority than the French General Foy “considered the general mass of the British officers excellent” (pp. 203–204), his opinion contrasting markedly with that of the Iron Duke who, no less petty and unjust on one hand than he was great on the other, often denounced everyone in his army—“the officers as ignorant of their duty, the rank and file as little better than a rabble” (p. 205). It must be confessed that he did have a choice collection of *mauvais sujets* under him—jailbirds, pickpockets, footpads, *et id omne genus*—attracted by the enormous bounties offered for volunteers. Small wonder that Professor Oman is obliged to devote an entire chapter (xiv.) to the discipline and court-martials of gentry of this sort, insomuch as “for the rank and file flogging was the universal panacea”—the number of strokes ranging from a minimum of twenty-five to a maximum of 1200, sufficient to kill most men but, luckily, only awarded nine or ten times during the entire six years of the war (p. 237). Grewsome as are the details of this chapter, they are relieved by several sprightly stories, one of which is quite worthy of repetition, illustrating the business acumen and ready wit of a corporal and private

belonging to the 88th regiment who formed part of a detachment sent to St. João da Pesqueira for wine for the soldiers. They started with a pair of fine white bullocks and brought back two scrawny blacks. At their court-martial they were confronted with this fact and asked what they had to say. Whereupon

Private Charles Reilly, noways abashed at this, which every one thought a poser, and ready with any excuse to save himself from punishment, immediately exclaimed, "Och! plaise your honour, and wasn't the white beasts lazy, and didn't we bate them until they were black?" The court was not quite satisfied of the truth of this wonderful metamorphosis, and they were condemned to be punished (*see* General Order, Freneda, January 22, 1812)—the corporal to be broke and get 700 lashes, Reilly to get 500. But in consideration of the great gallantry displayed by the 88th at the storm of Ciudad Rodrigo a few days before, the culprits were in the end pardoned (p. 247).

Chapter xv. cites the anonymous introduction to the second edition of *Selected General Orders* published by Gurwood in 1837, and one may search in vain for a better or more comprehensive picture of a British army on the march in Napoleonic times. It is followed by another on Impedimenta of which Wellington's forces certainly had a superabundance. General Foy pithily remarked that,

To look at the mass of impedimenta and camp-followers trailing behind the British, you would think that you were beholding the army of Darius. Only when you have met them in the field do you realize that you have to do with the soldiers of Alexander (p. 268).

Some twelve pages are devoted to notes of sieges, followed by a chapter on uniforms and weapons, and it is interesting to learn that the Tommy Atkins of that day carried a kit weighing some sixty pounds (p. 295) and a Tower musket—familiarily known as "Brown Bess"—the effective range of which was about three hundred yards only, while real accuracy was questionable over one hundred yards (p. 301). Of swords the variety was well-nigh infinite, the rifleman, devoid of bayonet, having as his second weapon "a very short and curved sword, more useful for wood-chopping than anything else" (p. 303).

The final chapter treats of things spiritual and the "fighting parsons" of various creeds, whose rôle was oftentimes difficult in that motley aggregation of unruly spirits which fought under the Iron Duke.

To the military student and to the general reader interested in the armies of those stirring Napoleonic times, or in vivid pictures of gallant leaders and of a rank and file which, notwithstanding many defects, have left an imperishable name in the annals of war, the reviewer, judging from the pleasure and profit that he has derived from Dr. Oman's unique work, can give no better advice than the scriptural exhortation, "Go and do thou likewise".

FREDERIC LOUIS HUIDEKOPER.